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This is hardly the picture that comes to mind when one thinks of Thailand, formerly Siam. Closer to the imagination is the portrait of the old-fashioned monarch of an old-fashioned nation in "The King and I."

Or perhaps one thinks of oriental temple spires, ornately decorated, that point heavenward, as above; of thatch houses on stilts beside rice paddies; of elephants hauling logs in the northern teak forests; of the ever-present carved Buddha in serene meditation; of graceful dancers, such as those on the cover, swaying to ancient rhythms.

Actually, the images of East and West hang side by side in Thailand, a country almost the size of France. About 91 per cent of the 21,000,000 people make a living on the land. The average Thai would rather operate a plow than a dye press, and farming is recognized as one of the most honorable pursuits.

In spite of this prejudice, industrialization slowly grows. Manufacturing still accounts for no more than 12 per cent of the national income and employs less than one-tenth of one per cent of the people.

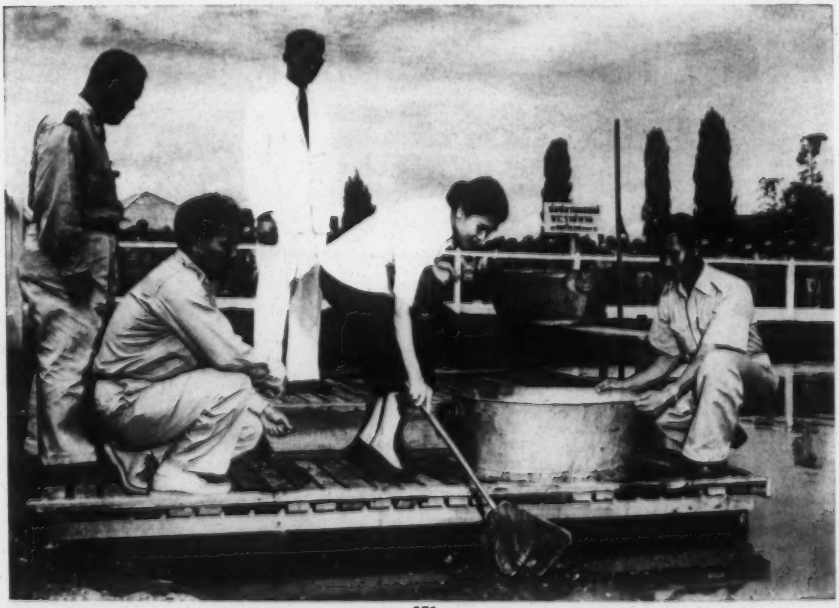
Thai industry is largely confined to light manufacturing. Mills process rice. Plants make cement, timber, and bricks and turn out a few consumer products such as jewelry, toys, and furniture. New factories manufacture glass, paper, and burlap bags.

Mining, with tin the leader, grows increasingly important. Prospectors search for added mineral wealth.

Most Thais spend part of their time catching fish, main source of protein in the Thai diet. They take fish from many miles of coastal waters as well as from rivers, canals, marshes, and even rice fields at floodtime. These they salt, dry, pickle, roast, fry, boil, or eat raw. Nearly every meal, from the cradle to the grave, consists of some variation on a rice and fish theme.

Below, King Phumiphon and Queen Sirikit visit the Thai Fisheries Department. The Queen is lowering a netload of *tilapia* into a breeding pond. A South African

U. N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION



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THAILAND

W. E. GARRETT, ABOVE; W. ROBERT MOORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF (COVER)

THEY don't have hamburgers in Thailand—yet.

They do have a king, Phumiphon Aduldet, who was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and once led his own jazz combo. His Majesty plays clarinet, piano, drums, and a hot saxophone.

International planes land daily at Don Muang Airport, Bangkok, one of the largest and most modern in Southeast Asia. Four-lane boulevards stripe the capital city, also the center of Thai culture and business. More and more buildings of Western design spring up. Women are adopting skirts and blouses. Men wear European business suits. American movie titles are spelled out on marquees.

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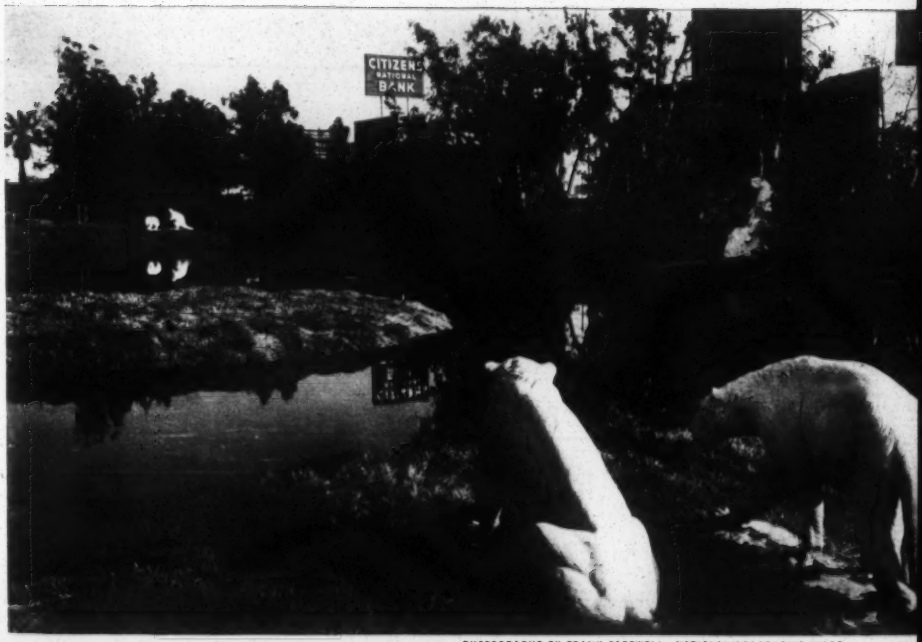

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK SARTWELL, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

La Brea's Famous Fossils

THIS QUIET POND reflecting the buildings of central Los Angeles is actually one of the most effective animal traps in the world.

It is one of the La Brea tar pits. Under a thin film of water the pool is composed entirely of sticky tar that has welled up from the earth. Thousands of years ago, lumbering mammoths and sloths walked in for a drink and couldn't get out again. Ever-hungry sabre-tooth cats, giant jaguars, and vultures came to eat the helpless beasts —and were mired themselves.

Their bones, sinking in the blackness, were joined by others as the process repeated itself again and again.

From these fossils, scientists have recreated primeval Los Angeles and its inhabitants (sculpted in cement beside pool above).

In one pit, the mass of bones has been left as it was found (left). The skull of a mastodon (bottom center) rests on a conglomeration of bones of birds and animals. Beyond, a swelling bubble shows the pits are still active. They trap small animals today. F.S.

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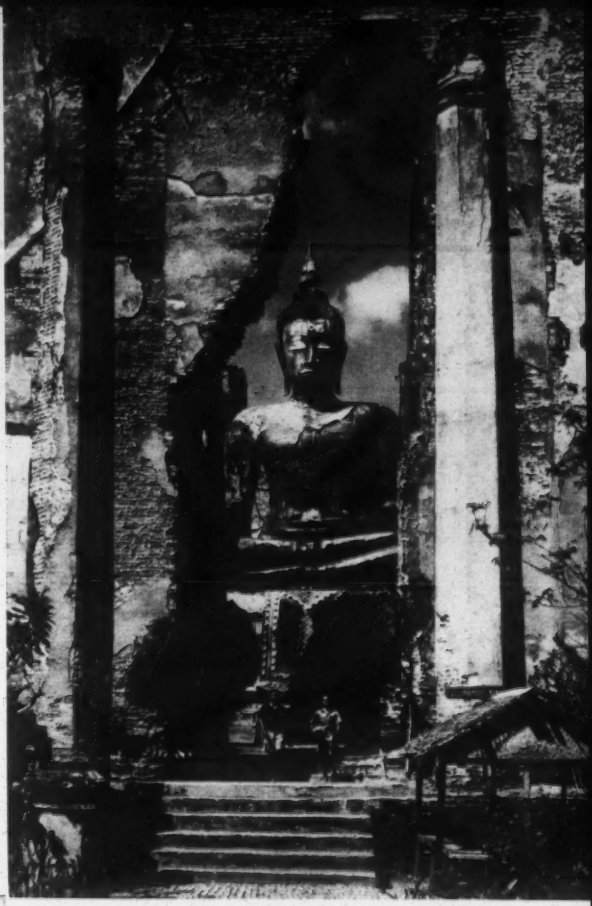
import that flourishes in ponds and paddies, the tilapia has been transplanted to many parts of the Far East as an inexpensive, fast-breeding food supply.

But Thailand's 2,500-year-old religion, Buddhism, remains unchanged by the 20th century. It is the keystone of Thai culture. Every man is expected to spend at least a brief period of his life in a monastery, and many give their entire lives to the priesthood.

Reminders of the national religion abound throughout the country. Images of Buddha outnumber the human population. Right, serene Buddha meditates in the ruins of Wat Mongkol Bopitr, one of the most elaborate temples in Ayutthaya before that city was destroyed by invading Burmese in 1767.



W. ROBERT MOORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

Bangkok alone has hundreds of temples and monasteries. The yellow-robed monk, his begging bowl in hand, parades the streets of Bangkok or paddles his canoe through the crowded klongs (canals) in the early morning, stopping to beg his daily bread. It is a common sight of the city.

THREE LIONS

The peasant women, left, in her homemade sunbonnet, also is little touched by progress around her. She prefers buying factory-made clothes to weaving her own, but she complains that store-bought dresses are less sturdy.

Her husband knows it takes less time and work to have his crop processed in a near-by rice mill but he cultivates as Thais did 100 years ago—with a homemade wooden plow. He makes offerings to the spirit of the land before he plows, although he has discarded most of the elaborate ceremonies formerly attached to rice planting.

Rice is the mainstay of the Thailand economy. The highest nobleman and the lowest alley cat live on it. Boats plying the great Chao Phraya River and ocean-going ships leaving Bangkok are loaded down with it. The interior plain of Thailand has been referred to as one big rice paddy.

Historically, Thailand always has had a strong desire for independence. Its name means Freeland. It has the distinction of being the only Southeast Asian country untouched by colonialism.

L. B.

FROM A DRAWING BY DAVID L. WILLOUGHBY AFTER A MURAL BY CHARLES R. KNIGHT IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM

Giant Ground Sloth Dire Wolf Horse Camel Giant Jaguar

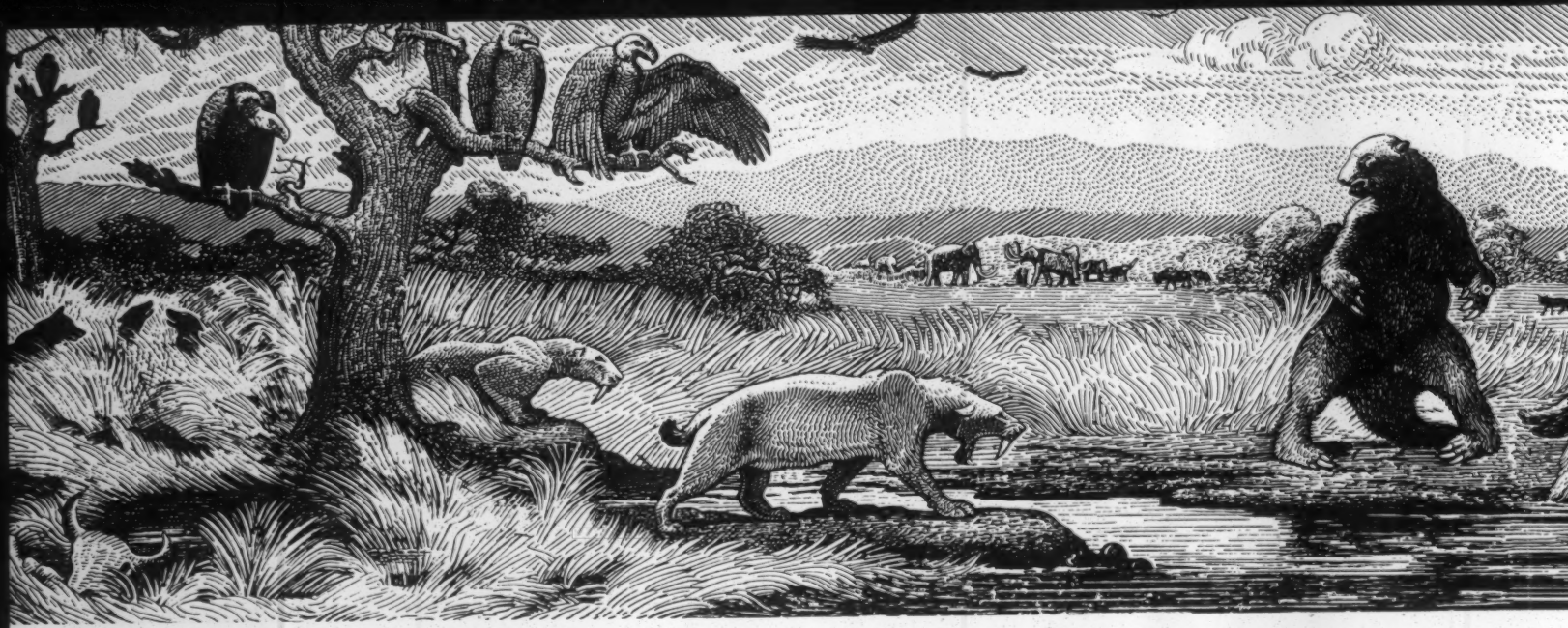
Soon the drama ends, the sloth dies, and Smilodon feasts. Then a paw slips into the tar. Trying to get free, Smilodon drops another paw into the black glue.

The great vulture, Teratornis, circles on 12-foot wings. He can afford to wait until there is no longer any life in Smilodon. Then he comes down, his great wings flapping hard to brake his flight.

One feathered wing tip strikes the tar. Fighting to break away, Teratornis is caught by the other wing. It is simply a matter of time. Held fast, he finishes his last meal while other beasts watch coldly.

The story repeats. The tar grasps thirsty mammoths and mastodons. Hungry lions bigger than any that prowl Africa struggle in vain. Primitive camels, bison that weigh tons, fleet horses, fearsome dire wolves, and myriad birds and insects breathe their last.

The remains accumulate layer on layer. The whole group of animals becomes extinct. Two hundred thousand years pass. Today the smooth tar gives no surface sign that anything ever happened here. F.S.



Great Vulture (Teratornis) Sabre-tooth Cat (Smilodon) Mammoth Bison

BONE-RICH TAR PITS UNVEIL A PANORAMIC GALLERY OF PREHISTORIC AMERICANS

SMILODON, the sabre-tooth cat, lowers his head and roars.

His shoulder throbs and he is hungry. The broken bone, gift from a mammoth who slammed him against a juniper tree, is infected and Smilodon can hardly walk, much less catch his food.

Usually, he lived by eating the slow-moving ground sloth, or by ripping meat from elephants. Now, he cannot catch them in the open.

But there is a place where meat doesn't have to be chased. Near what is now downtown Los Angeles, there are pools that look like water, but are really tar—sticky, clinging tar that holds ever tighter as an animal struggles to escape.

Here is a mired ground sloth. The cat, crippled, starving, and not too bright, springs and stabs the sloth with six-inch fangs.

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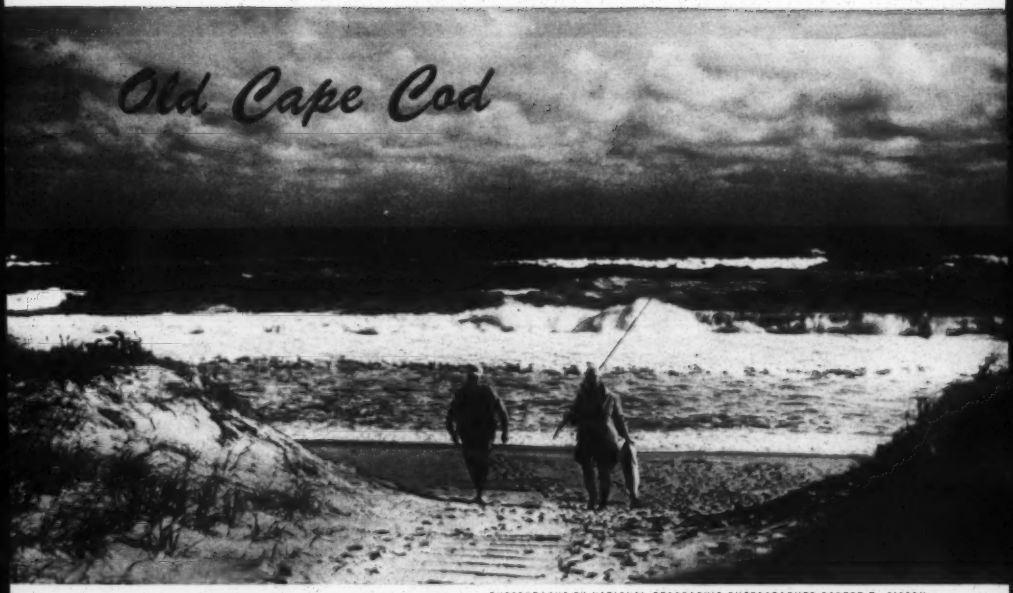
Old Cape Cod



PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT F. SISSON

THE FISHERMAN walks up the beach, dangling his 20-pound striped bass, an angler's prize. Behind him the restless Atlantic slaps the sands, the same sands Pilgrim founders of New England glimpsed from the *Mayflower* in 1620.

Like an arm crooked to seaward, the low-lying Cape beckoned the Pilgrims to the New World. Later, it developed with the mother colony of Massachusetts. Fishermen soon gave the peninsula the name of their biggest catch. Whalers shouldered through the fishing fleet in search of larger game. Clipper ships captained by Cape Cod men carried industrious New England's products to the world.

Many a roving mariner returned from a profitable voyage to build a shingled cottage whose design traces its ancestry back to Devon and Cornwall. Flexibility was its keynote. First he erected a "half house" like this one. As his family grew, he might add another room with two windows to the left of the door to give himself a "whole house." For good measure, he could add dormer windows, perhaps another chimney, even an entire wing to the rear.

The Cape Cod style found its way across the nation. So did the Cape's reputation. Today, thousands of visitors come to sun themselves on its beaches, jounce over the dunes in beach buggies, bid at antique auctions, pick up an odd piece of rose-tinted Sandwich glass, and savor quahaug chowder and beach-plum jelly. Their cameras catch everything—fishing boats that ply Cape harbors, lighthouses, old mills, historic churches, open-air art classes, and drama rehearsals at Provincetown's artists' colony.

As Yankee traders, Cape Codders welcome the newcomers. But oldtimers wonder if increasing commercialization won't cover too much of their sweeping shores and quiet coves. The National Park Service has proposed establishment of a 30,000-acre National Seashore. The preserve would run from Provincetown at the Cape's "fingertip" to the end of Nauset Beach, at the "elbow." Within a 40-mile stretch it would embrace windswept dunes, marshes haunted by heron and muskrat, woods of pine and maple. The seascape would remain forever unspoiled, just as the Pilgrims found it.

A.P.M.

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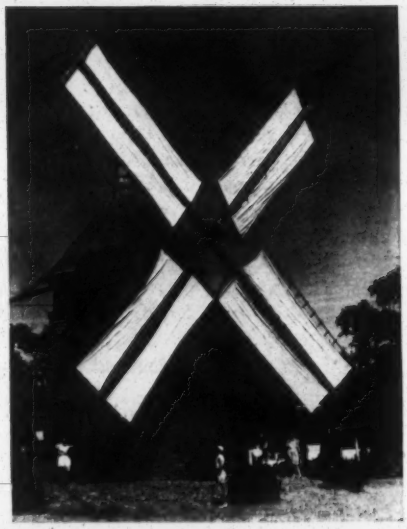

CAPE COD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A CAPE LANDMARK, this windmill at Eastham ground corn for settlers as early as 1793. Actors, below, follow in famous footsteps. The Provincetown Players, an early summer theater group, made theater history when they produced the first plays of a promising member, Eugene O'Neill.

FOREST OF MASTS in Provincetown harbor means the fishing fleet from near-by Gloucester is in. When the weather is right and the moon bright, the boats chug out after mackerel. At night, the fish come to the surface, easy targets for fishing nets.

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